

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. A carrier rack assembly, for an all terrain vehicle (ATV), in which a horizontal cargo carrying portion of said carrier rack assembly remains horizontal while said horizontal cargo carrying portion is able to be repositioned from a first extreme position to a second extreme position when said horizontal cargo carrying portion is in a loaded or empty state, said carrier rack assembly consisting of:

- a) a mounting bracket that is rigidly fastened to multiple points on the rear frame of said ATV while said mounting bracket protrudes rearward and upward from said multiple fastening points on said ATV;
- b) a horizontal cargo carrying rack structure that is positioned above said mounting bracket;
- c) an articulating mechanism comprised of multiple pivoting links each of which are attached at one end to said mounting bracket by means of a jointed axial connection and each of which are attached at the other end to said horizontal cargo carrying rack structure by means of a jointed axial connection;
- d) a latching mechanism that secures said articulating mechanism and said horizontal cargo carrying rack structure of said carrier rack assembly in a first extreme position in which said ATV can be operated.

2. A carrier rack assembly according to claim 1 that includes one or more spring mechanisms each of which have one end attached to one of the said pivoting links of the said articulating mechanism and the other end of each of the said spring mechanisms being attached to either the said mounting bracket or said horizontal cargo carrying rack structure of said carrier rack assembly, said spring mechanism providing mechanical assistance to the person repositioning said carrier rack assembly when said horizontal cargo carrying portion is in a loaded or empty condition.

3. A carrier rack assembly according to claim 1 that includes one or more pressurized strut mechanisms each of which have one end attached to one of the said pivoting links of the said articulating mechanism and the other end of each of the said pressurized strut mechanisms being attached to either the said mounting bracket or said horizontal cargo carrying rack structure of said carrier rack assembly, said pressurized strut mechanism providing mechanical assistance to the person repositioning said carrier rack assembly when said horizontal cargo carrying portion is in a loaded or empty condition.

4. A carrier rack assembly according to claim 1 that includes a rail structure attached in a generally centered and generally upper location to the rearward most portion of said cargo carrying rack structure, said rail structure providing a barrier to keep cargo items from tending to slide off of the back of said carrier rack assembly during use of said ATV.

5. A carrier rack assembly according to claim 1 that includes a flag mast attachment member integrated into said carrier rack assembly, said flag mast attachment member allowing a visibility flag to be attached to said ATV.